

# Olympic Day Lodge Built With Utah History, Efficiency In Mind

Heartbeat Of Soldier Hollow's Trail System Opens Saturday, Dec. 16

**DEREK JENSEN**  
COURIER STAFF

12-13-06

**H**eber Valley's rich railroad tradition is about to get a little richer, though trains will be nowhere in sight.

Instead, Soldier Hollow's day lodge, which will showcase naturally hardened trestlewood, leftover from Utah's heady Promontory Point days, is scheduled to open this weekend. The wood has been underwater in the Great Salt Lake since 1902, making it durable and virtually fireproof.

"It's very stunning — you can see the minerals and everything," said Howard Peterson, executive director of the Soldier Hollow

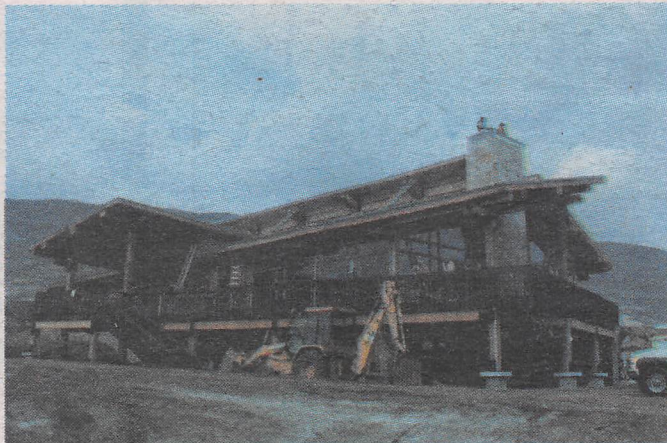
Legacy Foundation, who said the trestlewood constitutes the lodge's siding,

across the Great Salt Lake following the joining of the railroad. Submerged for

were so impregnated with salts and minerals," Peterson added.

Undergoing the finishing touches, the main room is large and airy, featuring rust, sage and pale yellow colors on the walls. Picture windows offer easy views of the cross-country trails below. A 32-foot fireplace will warm skiers built with rock shipped in from Peoa. To round out the lodge, stone slate will cover the non-carpeted floor areas.

By the end of the winter, organizers are hoping to



Built primarily with trestlewood, Soldier Hollow's day lodge opens this weekend.

beams and ceiling. "Since Heber's railroad also runs by Soldier Hollow, it nicely ties it together."

Originally the wood was used for a trestle built

nearly 100 years, the trestlewood trusses are as hard as steel, which made the five-month construction difficult. "They were really hard to cut and drill because they

DAY LODGE continued on A4

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Approval of a 1/4-cent sales tax hike to build more rail transit and buy more buses on Utah's **Wasatch Front** and the anti-sprawl message of **Envision Utah** appear headed in a different direction than the **Bush Administration** will choose to go nationally, city leaders were told at an Atlanta confab.



Salt Lake fire dispatcher **Connie Kelson** calms a hysterical mother whose 11-month old child has plunged facedown in the bathtub and is drowning. Kelson talks her through emergency procedures on the phone and saves a life.



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have a picture display outlining the story of the materials' history and their role in Utah's railroad tradition.

Both levels, the 5,300-square-foot first floor and the 5,500-square-foot lower level, will have plenty of rest-room facilities.

"We'll even have enough stalls for women (seven) because you shouldn't have to wait," Peterson said. Coin operated lockers and showers will also be available.

Skiers of all levels can rent their equipment, including snowshoes, at the lodge. Trails are open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day and punch cards are available. Afterward, weary skiers can find refreshment in the new lodge.

"We'll have cold and hot drinks plus some snacks," Peterson said.

Soldier Hollow has been booking about six groups a day for their youth group program, which offers ski equipment, a lesson and trail use for \$2 per kid. The debut group, 200 students from Heber's Rocky Mountain Middle School, will break in the lodge Dec. 22 and 23. Peterson said cold temperatures should allow the snow-making equipment to cover the trails adequately.

"Right now it looks like we'll have 12 to 15 kilometers, and if we have natural snow in the meantime, we'll have twice that open," he said.

The lodge was designed to allow

Peterson said will make it "extremely efficient." Midweek, for instance, the day lodge will have as few as two people working, while one will spend the majority of the day on course, teaching.

This past weekend, Soldier Hollow hosted a successful Olympic test event as cross-country skiers from around the world took to the trails as part of the Nordic Combined World Cup. During the Winter Games in 2002, the course will serve as the biathlon and cross-country venue.

But organizers of the Soldier Hollow Legacy Foundation are hoping

for more from the day lodge than simple sanctuary from the slopes. For \$500 anyone interested can book the facility for evening parties. Not-for-profit groups can schedule the lodge at no charge provided they cover basic

cleanup fees. Whether it's used for receptions, fundraisers or generic parties, guests will have access to all the lodge's amenities, including the fireplace.

"It's going to be a great setting for functions," Peterson said.

The grand opening and dedication is scheduled for Jan. 5. Then, on Jan. 6, Friends of Wasatch Mountain State Park and the Legacy Foundation are sponsoring a "community day," offering two-thirds off trail passes. Inside the railroad history-laden lodge, locals can celebrate the building's completion with free food, drinks and live music.

***"It's going to be a great setting for functions."***

**HOWARD PETERSON**  
Executive Director, Soldier Hollow  
Legacy Foundation



# County Hires Water Director

## Commission Taps Initiative Opponent

**TIM WESTBY**  
COURIER STAFF

12-13-60

The Wasatch County Commission has tapped an outspoken critic of the recent initiative to revamp county government to fill the recently created position of water resources director.

The Commission announced in October that it was looking for someone to oversee virtually all water resource activities in the county. During the Nov. 29 County Commission meeting, Commissioners announced that they were hiring Mike Davis to fill the \$46,000-a-year position.

Davis told the *Courier* that he was looking forward to the job and would likely begin sometime after the first of the year.

"It's a cut in pay for me, but to work for the county is a joy," said Davis. "I feel very strongly about taking care of our natural resources."

During the recent campaign, Davis co-chaired the Wasatch County Citizens for Conservative Government, which tried to stop passage of the seven-member county council initiative. Commissioner LaRen Provost flatly denied that Davis' opposition to the initiative played any role in the selection process.

"No, no way. Hell, put water on that," said Provost. "He's very active in the community. I don't care what [meeting it is] Mike is there in the

front row. When he feels strongly about something, he takes a stand. Nothing wrong with that."

Davis was picked from a field of seven applicants. Provost described Davis as "a pretty qualified guy; pretty smart" in explaining why he got the nod over the other applicants. Provost added that Davis' lack of ties to any of the county's irrigation companies also played a role.

"We need someone that is not going to be biased," he said.

As the county's new water resource director, Davis said his main duties will be to coordinate restoration work along the Provo River, administer the county's portion of the Central Utah Project, and direct water resource activities for Special Service Area #1, which covers most of the county. He will also be responsible for making sure that claims made by developers and irrigation companies about the amount of available water are accurate.

Davis, who currently owns a company that manufactures water filtration components for water treatment plants, said he became interested in water issues after sitting on the Wasatch County Planning Commission for three years and volunteering with the Twin Creek Special Service District.

Davis has almost 20 years of experience in water resources and engineering. He described the timing of the new job as perfect since his company, MW Manufacturing, is in the midst of a buyout by another Heber City company that will leave him "jobless."

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MIKE DAVIS  
New Water Czar